

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

### VALE OF ALLEN AND WEYMOUTH AND SURROUNDING PARISHES

#### RESPONSES TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

20 February to 17 April 2023

Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments	
<b>Vale of Allen Group</b>			
1	Support recommendations.	No additional comments made.	
2	Support with observations.	<p><b>Holt Parish Council</b> still objects to the Vale of Allen's proposal for Gaunts Common.</p> <p>As there were so few submissions from the residents of Gaunts Common, Holt Parish Council concurs with the draft recommendations of no change.</p> <p>If in the second consultation there was very significant support, particularly from Hinton Parish residents, for all of Gaunts Common being within Holt Parish, then Holt Parish Council would concur with such a change.</p>	<p>Member Working Group note: the draft recommendations are supported. No comments have been received asking for the Council to reconsider the earlier Gaunts Common proposal and therefore this would not form part of the final recommendations unless the Working Party decided to include it.</p>
3	Support recommendations.	No additional comments made.	
4	Support recommendations.	No additional comments made.	

Support/Oppose		Comments	Additional comments
<b>Chickerell</b>			
1	Oppose recommendations - see officer comment. Believe they are supporting the draft recommendations.	See no reason for WTC to hijack parts of Chickerell. This is about them getting more revenue. Chickerell has a TC and it serves the area well enough. Weymouth has nothing to offer us.	Member Working Group note: This comment appears to oppose the earlier proposal by Weymouth TC to take in parts of Chickerell parish within its boundaries.
2	Support recommendations.	Agree with the no changes to boundaries of Chickerell.	
3	Oppose recommendations - see officer comment. Believe they are supporting the draft recommendations.	I object strongly to the land grab that Weymouth council are attempting. I have no desire for Chickerell to be part of Weymouth. I do not believe that either Weymouth or Dorset councils have the best interests of the residents of Chickerell in mind.	Member Working Group note: This comment appears to oppose the earlier proposal by Weymouth TC to take in parts of Chickerell parish within its boundaries.
4	Oppose recommendations - see officer comment. Believe they are supporting the draft recommendations.	We wish to remain part of the Chickerell boundary, we have lived here for 19 years and have always supported the Chickerell area and community events.	Member Working Group note: This comment appears to oppose the earlier proposal by Weymouth TC to take in parts of Chickerell parish within its boundaries.
5	Oppose recommendations.	No comments made.	
6	Support recommendations.	I support option 2 with no changes to Chickerell boundary, the spirit of community in Chickerell is very strong most residents identify that they are from Chickerell not Weymouth.	
7	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
8	Support recommendation.	I support the above recommendation providing that all councillors come under Chickerell Town Council	

Support/Oppose		Comments	Additional comments
9	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
10	Oppose recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
11	Oppose recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
12	Oppose recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
13	Oppose recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
14	Oppose recommendation.	Leave Chickerell boundaries unchanged.	Member Working Group note: This comment appears to oppose the earlier proposal by Weymouth TC to take in parts of Chickerell parish within its boundaries.
15	Support recommendation.	<b>Dorset Councillor Jean Dunseith</b> Moving one Councillor from Charlestown to Chickerell will give greater electoral equality.	
16	Oppose recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
17	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
18	Support recommendation.	I am glad that parts of Chickerell will not be changed to be part of Weymouth. Chickerell has a very strong sense of community including Cobham Drive, Littlesea, etc.	
19	Support recommendation.	I strongly support NO change to the boundary of the parish of Chickerell. It would seem from reading Weymouth Town Council's response that they are attempting some kind of land grab for financial reasons. Chickerell has its own strong identity.	

<b>Support/Oppose</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
20	Support recommendation.	Halt Weymouth Council's continued incursions into Chickerell's boundaries. Investigate Weymouth Council's lying and deceptive behaviour in connection with the above mentioned boundary changes.	
21	Support recommendation.	<b>Chickerell Town Council</b> As no compromise was achieved despite representatives meeting with Weymouth Town Council proposing possible compromises, Chickerell Town Council is in full agreement with the recommendation put forward by Dorset Council that NO changes be made to the parish boundaries. Parish boundaries are historical (and appreciated by many as such). Changing parish boundaries would incur significant administrative costs to DC and possibly others. To contemplate incurring such costs there would need to be a REAL benefit to residents.	
22	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
23	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
24	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
25	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
26	Support recommendation.	No additional comments made.	
27	Oppose recommendations.	No additional comments made.	

Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
<b>Weymouth</b>		
1	Oppose recommendations.	Since unification, the residents and businesses of Weymouth and Portland have been made to feel like the 'poor relatives'. Views and opinions seem to fall on deaf ears and funds seem to be spent on non-sensical issues, whilst others in dire need of funding, are left. It seems pointless as no ideas are ever listened to.
2	Oppose recommendations - see officer comment. Believe they are supporting the draft recommendations.	Chickerell should remain separate.
3	Support with observations.	Support Option 2 with no loss of any part of Chickerell to Weymouth to retain community identity.
4	Support recommendations.	No additional comments made.
5	Support with observations.	Oppose the option to move parts of the parish of Chickerell to the parish of Weymouth.
6	Oppose recommendations.	No other comment given.
7	<b>Dorset Councillor O'Leary</b> - Oppose recommendations - see text set out under table.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
8	Oppose recommendation - area affecting Portland.	<p><b>Portland Town Council</b> now confirm to Dorset Council that no change should be made to the A354 Road Boundary following a Full Council meeting of the 15th March 2023. Although the Town Council, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan review, would be in discussion about other adjacent areas to the Parish.</p>	Officer note: Extract of Planning and Highways Committee minutes below.
9	Oppose recommendations.	<p>67 responses were received with the following text:</p> <p>I wish to support the proposals submitted by Weymouth Town Council.</p> <p>I agree in reducing the number of town councillors.</p> <p>I agree, everyone's vote should count the same from Broadway, to Nottingham, to Wyke Regis.</p> <p>I agree that 'Weymouth Football Club' should be within the community of Weymouth.</p> <p>I agree, transferring these additional properties in to Weymouth is fairer, and will help to keep town council tax down in future.</p> <p><b>Additional comments added to the standard response:</b></p> <p>Agree strongly with WTC's proposal, especially with their first preference, but suggest there is little to be gained from reducing the number of councillors overall, as the Town Council area is already under represented in comparison to other towns within the DC area.</p> <p>I support WTC's proposals. The electoral quality &amp; anomalous boundaries must be addressed.</p>	

Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
	<p>I strongly support WTC's proposal in the best interests of supporting our democracy.</p> <p>Disappointed that Dorset Council has failed to follow Government Guide Lines.</p> <p>I completely disagree with the DC proposal for one councillor to represent 177 residents in Nottingham but over 6,000 in Rodwell and Wyke.</p> <p>I'm pleased to hear that Dorset Council have included the new properties to be built adjacent to Littlemoor Road, within the boundary of Weymouth Town Council and the Littlemoor Ward. This makes perfect sense as the additional housing will place strain on Littlemoor so the additional council tax payments will help with this. It will also allow the new residents to feel part of the Littlemoor Community.</p> <p>Personally I feel that the whole of Chickerell should be included in the Weymouth Town Council boundary as it is just an extension of the town with no natural 'break', but see this hasn't even been suggested? If anyone has the time to provide an explanation as to why Chickerell has been kept separate from the rest of Weymouth I'd appreciate a response.</p> <p>I disagree with the transfer of any property's from Chickerell to Weymouth as it serves no purpose or benefits to the residents of those properties.</p> <p>Dorset Council's scheme has one Ward with less than 200 electors compared with an average of 1,700 per Councillor. It has not</p>	

Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
	<p>followed the published guide lines and could be challenged if imposed.</p> <p>Control and a local 'voice' is critical to WEYMOUTH as opposed to decisions made largely at regional level where knowledge of local needs can surely be negligible?</p> <p>There should be no changes made to the boundaries of Portland there is nothing to gain from it poartland should start Rodwell Trail Road, crossing</p> <p>I would like to know what benefits you think Lanehouse residents get from Weymouth Town Council ? I am happy to stay in Dorset Council area.</p> <p>I agree with preference 2. I live in Cobham Drive and am quite happy under West Dorset.</p> <p>Weymouth Town Councillors have improved relationships between residents and themselves they understand local issues and have a balanced view of the needs of our community.</p> <p>I do not agree with the proposed new wards. They seem to include areas that have only proposed building that has not yet been given planning permission for on a green field site (in my area of Southill )It was proposed in the last local plan that then was withdrawn because of the new structure of the unitary authority. The new local plan has not yet been ratified. If the area that is proposed gets built on it means that although the houses will be in a Weymouth ward, they will also be in a West Dorset constituency because the constituency boundary follows Radipole Lane in Southill. The fields are in</p>	



	Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
		<p>Chickerell and bounding on to Southill at the hedge line. This is not a transparent process.</p> <p>As previously said by DCC, the rate of council tax cannot be a factor in this review. As regards Weymouth FC, when the relocation to this new site was suggested in the 1970s, it was pointed out that it would be in West Dorset Council area and W@PBC didn't think that this had any relevance.</p> <p>Weymouth is a diverse location and should be controlled by Weymouth town council, the governance of the area should be in the hands of those living in the town.</p> <p>Please don't let them have more</p> <p>As long as the additional houses are net contributors to the Council tax pot. Council tax is getting beyond a joke. The adult social care precept should be a national flat rate paid centrally!</p> <p><b>Weymouth Town Councillor David Northam:</b> I support the 1st Preference. I do not support the 2nd Preference. I reluctantly agree to reducing the number of councillors noting that electoral equality is diminished with Weymouth Councillors representing approx twice as many residents as any other town/parish in Dorset.</p> <p><b>Dorset Councillor Peter Barrow:</b> I have now listened to several presentations and been party to many conversations regarding the boundary review. I am convinced that the proposals from WTC are the best solution. They offer the best fit to our local communities.</p>	
10	Oppose recommendations.	Personal submission by Weymouth Town Councillor – see text below table.	

<b>Support/Oppose</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
11	Oppose recommendations.	I support the alternative proposal put forward by Cllr Louie O'Leary that listens to our concerns about Littlemoor community being stretched and merged despite our opposition. I also oppose Weymouth's plan that leaves us sold short of representation.	
12	Oppose recommendations.	I do NOT support either Dorset or Weymouth councils proposals. They would both split Littlemoor up over various boundaries and cause confusion. I support the proposals put forward by Cllr Louie O'Leary that would see better representation of our community both based on borders and numbers.	
13	Oppose recommendations.	I support the proposals put forward by Cllr Louie O'Leary not these proposals. Littlemoor's border should not be moved to the area north as it will cause confusion and damage the fabric of our community. Dorset councils plan would in my opinion damage the community and not provide a good a reflection of our community.	
14	Oppose recommendations.	Littlemoor should be kept as an area that reflects its actual community not moved around. Weymouth councils plan leaves us without equal representation and doesn't take into account the building of new houses in the middle and the southern edge of the estate.	
15	Oppose recommendations.	I do not like this plan.	
16	Oppose recommendations.	I support the proposal put forward by Counsellor Louie O'Leary.	
17	Oppose recommendations.	Leave them all as they are.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
18	Oppose recommendations.	<p>Clearly if parts of Nightingale Drive are moved into Weymouth BC those properties would suffer a considerable increase in Council tax in having to pay the Weymouth TC precept. They currently pay a parish Council precept of £11.26 and would, if the proposal goes ahead, be forced to pay £181, an increase of 1580%!! They will not of course receive any benefit from this extra tax.</p> <p>In addition to the swinging increase in council tax the properties moving into the Weymouth BC area would remain in the Winterbourne and Broadmayne ward of Dorset Council. This would be a democratic nonsense. Where is the accountability in dealing with both Weymouth BC and Dorset CC. Those of us that are moved into Weymouth BC area would also be represented by Chris Loader MP who is a West Dorset constituency representative. I believe the proposed changes are undemocratic.</p>	
19	Oppose recommendations.	<p>As a Weymouth town councillor I oppose the proposals being put forward by both Dorset council and Weymouth council (that I along with 5 other councillors voted against with 6 abstaining and only 8 voting for). I feel these plans would leave area's with future population growth potential underrepresented and in wards that do not reflect the communities of Weymouth.</p> <p>I support Cllr Louie O'Learys counter proposal that listens to the concerns of Weymouth residents affected, provides good electoral equality and is a good compromise.</p>	Ward names – anything but Pye Hill.
20	Oppose recommendations.	It does not listen to the concerns of Littlemoor residents.	Not Pye Hill.
21	Oppose recommendations.	I don't support this plan. I support Louie O'Learys plan that listens to the views of our community and better reflects it. Other plans splits and dilutes communities.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
22	Oppose recommendations.	The Weymouth and Dorset plans do not reflect the wishes of the people of Littlemoor and Weymouth and would cause division. Councillor Louie O'Learys plan is far better as listening to the people and giving them good representation.	
23	Oppose recommendations.	I do not wish to pay any more in utility bills and am happy residing in the Winterbourne Farringdon parish.	
24	Oppose recommendations.	I agree with WFGPC that there is no need to change the current boundary. A council tax increase of 1580% would be too much for residents to bear.	
25	Oppose recommendations.	We are ok as we are currently with no boundary change.	
26	Oppose recommendations.	It is clear the county boundary stops at Lanehouse Rocks Road, there is a boundary stone marking the boundary. I see no benefit to move the boundary, currently I am a Chickerell resident and wish to remain one, we have our own identity, and our own council and therefore have suitable governance in place, and I wish it to stay that way.	Member Working Group note: This comment appears to oppose the earlier proposal by Weymouth TC to take in parts of Chickerell parish within its boundaries.
27	Oppose recommendations.	If this proposed boundary change comes into effect, it would leave myself and others in this area (Bincombe) with no representation by our current ward councillor, and also, our MP would struggle to represent us either. Add to this, our precept would include a huge increase if the boundary changes come into effect in 2024, and it would be unfair to expect us to stand for such an increase, by just moving the boundaries.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
28	Support recommendations.	Chickerell is so clearly not part of Weymouth, indeed some 3 miles separate the council buildings, Weymouth will give nothing in return for our council tax other than increasing what is already a considerable burden on household income!	
29	Oppose recommendations.	No additional comments made.	
30	Oppose recommendations.	No additional comments made.	
31	Oppose recommendations.	<p>Dorset Council's proposal to change the boundary for the Bincombe Parish component of Winterborne Farringdon Grouped Parish Council (WFGPC) is completely unacceptable for the following reasons. The CGR review body has ignored the submissions of WFGPC and those of Littlemoor, Weymouth. WFGPC recommended the status quo with the exception of the "development of land to the north of Littlemoor Road, 500 dwellings plus a school, shops, a small industrial estate and a 100 bed care home. That development is already factored into the population figures of Winterborne and Broadmayne Ward of Dorset Council. WFGPC suggested that now, before any building has taken place, would be the ideal time to set up this development as a new ward or parish of Weymouth Town Council. WFGPC is formed of 5 rural parishes and the precept from the &lt;200 dwellings in the Nightingale Drive area is what enables the group to have a parish clerk and to hold regular meetings. If that contribution to WFGPC is removed, as in the CGR proposal, the effect on WFGPC will be severe or even lead to its disbandment. The remaining parishes to the north should they wish to continue as a group, would need to impose a large increase in their precept. It is more likely that they would choose to hold annual parish meetings and that would mean a diminution of their democratic rights. As for the Nightingale Drive area, the idea of moving it into a new Littlemoor/Preston West shows a lack of local knowledge. There has</p>	

Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
	<p>been no connection between Bincombe Parish and either Littlemoor, or especially, Preston. It appears that the CGR body has listened to only Weymouth Town Council's idea of ever increasing expansion and of grabbing the precept monies from wherever they can.</p> <p>Weymouth is a run down coastal resort and adding a few dwellings to its northernmost boundary would, again, and as with the remaining parts of WFGPC, leave the Nightingale Drive area with a democratic deficit. When Dorset Council came into being in 2019, Weymouth was reduced from Borough status to Town Council status, a fact that they resent, and Bincombe Parish is very concerned that WTC would ignore them. WFGPC has always fought and argued on rural matters such as protecting the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the history of the area and, of course, planning, and has no interest in deck chairs or beach cleaning. Conversely, WTC has no interest in rural affairs. Finally, under the CGR proposal, those living in the Nightingale Drive area would be paying a precept to WTC but would remain in the Winterborne &amp; Broadmayne ward of Dorset Council and in the West Dorset Parliamentary Constituency; this is a complete non sequitur and confusing to MP's, Councillors and residents. To whom do residents turn if they have a problem and will Councillors and MP's be prepared to cross boundaries? Certainly MP's will not. The current entire CGR proposal should be shredded and the whole process started again. It appears that the Ward Councillor had no input to the CGR, so where is he?</p> <p>If I might add, those residents of the Nightingale Drive area would face, based on 2023/4 figures, a 1580% in council tax precept. Yes, 1580%.</p>	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
32	Oppose recommendation.	<p>This is politically driven and totally unnecessary.</p> <p>I suspect the new development of 500 houses in Littlemoor is at the core of this proposed change. Create a new ward for the new development. Instead of changing boundaries, create a new ward for the new development in Littlemoor ward for the development.</p>	
33	Support with observations.	Chickerell should remain in West Dorset not in Weymouth where for years they waste good monies. A disgrace. Our MP to stand on to be a West Dorset MP please.	As previously stated. Chickerell Tow to remain in West Dorset. We do not wish to belong to Weymouth and have our Council Tax wasted.
34	Oppose recommendations.	I do not support the moving of Littlemoor border north. Doing this against the wishes of the residents will cause resentment and damage the community.	
35	Oppose recommendations.	I support the other proposal put forward by Louie O'Leary which keeps Littlemoor together as one united community. Move the area north of Littlemoor into Upwey.	
36	Oppose recommendations.	I do not support Weymouth or Dorset councils plan as both would cause confusion and division in the Littlemoor area. It would see Littlemoor split up over various layers of admin. Isn't this review there to listen to us the residents and to help reduce confusion around council and local government lines. Its already confusing enough having different councillors for Littlemoor and Preston let alone different councillors and MP's with the new estate in Bincombe. Please listen and respect our wishes and keep our community united.	
37	Oppose recommendations.	They area to north of us don't have anything in common with Littlemoor and they shouldn't be put with Littlemoor. Littlemoor is Littlemoor and is a good community please listen to us and don't ruin that.	

<b>Support/Oppose</b>		<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
38	Oppose recommendations.	I support Louies plan which looks after our community in Littlemoor is better on numbers and makes sure our community is kept together.	
39	Oppose recommendations.	I support Councillor Louie O'Learys plan that is better on making sure communities are properly represented other plans divide us up and cause confusion. Please respect the views of those who live here.	
40	Oppose recommendations.	I support Councillor Louie O'Learys plan that is better on making sure communities are properly represented other plans divide us up and cause confusion. Please respect the views of those who live here.	
41	Oppose recommendations.	Louie's plan  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lets Littlemoor keep its identity and stops confusion</li> <li>- Give chickerell residents what they want</li> <li>- Gives good numbers compared to anyone elses plan</li> <li>- Listens to the people!</li> </ul>	
42	Oppose recommendations.	I have been a Littlemoor resident my entire life and raised my family here. Littlemoor has changed a lot and we accept that. However a new community with its own community centre church, Dorset councillor a different MP, and other communities cannot be put with us an area on Weymouth council as it has nothing in common. It will also leave our "deprived" and poor community left out again! Please listen to our views.	
43	Oppose recommendations.	Dorset Council's proposed boundary change would cause a great deal of confusion. With the overlapping of wards and constituencies, responsibilities to residents would be blurred, It would not be clear who people should contact if they had a problem and Councillors and MP's would have responsibilities either side of boundaries. This would clearly not be workable. Under the CGR proposal, those living	



	Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
		<p>in the Nightingale Drive area would be paying a precept to WTC but would remain in the Winterborne &amp; Broadmayne ward of Dorset Council and in the West Dorset Parliamentary Constituency. They would face a huge, unacceptable, increase in council tax. It would make far more sense to set up this development as a new ward or parish of Weymouth Town Council.</p>	
44	Oppose recommendations.	<p>Littlemoor has very little in common with the area two are north the already built area's have always been separate (for 50 years) the new area to the north will have its community centre, its own church, its own Dorset county councillor and its own MP. It will be named by developers as something separate to Littlemoor and it should remain separate. Councillor Louie O'Learys plan keeps the area's separate and makes sure everyone is represented well with numbers. Surely a community review should listen to the community?</p>	
45	Oppose recommendations.	<p>Dorset and Weymouths plan leaves the community of Littlemoor underrepresented. It is a deprived community and should have fair representation. The only plan that has public support or is fair is Cllr Louie O'Leary's and it should be the one put forward. If the people of Littlemoor got a vote on moving our border north it would be almost unanimously opposed.</p>	
46	Support recommendations.	<p><b>Dorset Councillor Jean Dunseith</b>  The number of councillors for Town Council seems appropriate to represent residents.</p> <p>The proposed arrangement for Nottingham is out of line with elector numbers for all the other town wards.</p> <p>I am pleased that the proposal for absorbing parts of Chickerell Parish have been abandoned.</p>	

	Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
47	Oppose recommendations.	<p>I am very concerned with the proposals coming forward from DC which miss the opportunity to tidy up the boundary between Weymouth and Chickerell which have remained static for 50 years despite the major growth in the area. When the boundary lay between two district/borough councils there was less need for change as responsibilities got shared across two large authorities. A town council has more responsible for local services and needs which should be paid for by those who use them from the town. I gather that about 80% of weymouth's council tax is spent on the beach and esplanade, toilets, parks gardens and open spaces, and allotments/cemeteries. All those estates on the Western side of Weymouth, where Value House used to be in Wyke Regis, the Littlesea Estate and the Cobham Drive Estate are separated from Chickerell by Open Space or business estates and clearly face into Weymouth, and use all the facilities I have mentioned above. The estates are communities in their own right and should not be split as they are by the old arbitrary boundary line drawn up when the towns were much smaller than they are now. I support the first option suggested by Weymouth Town Council.</p>	
48	Oppose recommendations.	<p><b>Winterborne Farringdon Group Parish Council</b>  These comments should be read in conjunction with our submitted alternative proposal and the maps therein.</p> <p>The position of Winterborne Farringdon Group of Parish Councils [WFGPC] remains as submitted to the previous 2020/21 Review. Further discussions with Weymouth Town Council [WTC] confirm that we are likeminded aside from the emphasis that we, WFGPC, place on remaining in step with Dorset Council [DC] ward boundaries where they involve existing populated areas.</p>	

	Support/Oppose	Comments	Additional comments
		<p>So, WFGPC agree with WTC (and the DC proposal) that the southern boundary of Bincombe should be shifted north to encompass the whole of the proposed 'North of Littlemoor' development area [marked D1 and D2 on the accompanying map] but WFGPC oppose the transfer of the existing populated area [C on the map comprising some 190 dwellings] to WTC until such time as the DC ward boundaries can be realigned in concert. WFGPC believe that, while LGBCE might be relaxed about an adjustment to ward boundaries where there is currently no population, LGBCE would be reluctant to allow changes involving current populations that would undermine the carefully constructed electoral equality of DC wards so soon after establishment.</p> <p>A side issue for WFGPC is that its remaining population were area C to be removed to WTC, would be too low to sustain the overheads (clerk, venue etc.) even of quarterly meetings. So, de-grouping WFGPC and just holding 5 annual Parish Meetings might still be necessary.</p> <p>While a hybrid solution, having area C in WTC for parish/town level governance but in Winterborne &amp; Broadmayne ward for DC governance, is technically possible [Nottingham is a current example], it does nothing for clarity of local governance and should be avoided if possible.</p>	
49	Oppose recommendations.	<p>I oppose the proposals to change Littlemoor borders north. Littlemoor is a happy close knit community of people who share common representation, community centres, churches and amenities. The area north will have a different representation, community centre, church, and I cannot see how a community is meant to share the same ward if they don't have the same things in common.</p>	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
50	Oppose recommendations.	<p>I oppose Weymouth and Dorset Council's plans. I support Cllr O'Leary's plan. I support his because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It makes sure Littlemoor is kept as it and its community and identity is preserved</li> <li>- It ensures we on Littlemoor are not under represented. Our community is the third most deprived area in the county and is growing on its south side with new buildings within the estate. This makes sure we are not left out</li> <li>- It gives communities like Southill name representation</li> <li>- It actually listens to residents</li> <li>- It is a good compromise</li> </ul>	
51		<p>What is the point of asking residents views if you don't listen to them? Littlemoor residents have made their views known. Please listen to our views. We would like to see community boundaries retained. Littlemoor has grown and it has split the community up a bit but we have tried our best to keep it close knit. But adding 500 houses in including a new community centre but calling the area Littlemoor will do nothing but cause division. This community will have far more in common with Bincombe or Upwey than Littlemoor.</p>	
52	Oppose recommendations.	No additional comments made.	
53	Oppose recommendations.	Agree with Cllr Louie O'Leary that Littlemoor shouldn't be split.	
54	Oppose recommendations.	<p>Littlemoor must stay as Littlemoor with the A353 as the boundary and not to include the new development by Abri in the Bincombe Parish. Littlemoor to stay as Littlemoor and Preston.</p>	
55	Oppose recommendations.	Reduce the number of councillors, most don't do anything anyway.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
56	Oppose recommendations.	I support the view agreed by Weymouth town council. I'm particular I support the littlemoor extension coming into the WTC boundary, and I feel that the new housing area should be in the same ward as the existing littlemoor properties. To put this area in a ward with Broadwey has no benefits and Serves no purpose. Those residents in the new properties will align themselves with the nearest community I.e. the one just over the road. I support a reduction to 24 councillors only if the wards are equitable in terms of electoral numbers.	
57	Support recommendations.	Not all of us on Littlemoor have a one sided view. Change is good and needed to move forward.	
58	Oppose recommendations.	Camp Road and Mandeville Road should be part of the Wyke Regis community – not part of West Dorset Chickerell area. All of Southill and Weymouth Football Club are part of the town of Weymouth.	
59	Support recommendations.	Weymouth Town Council has far too many councillors.	
60	Oppose recommendations.	I support the recommendations of Weymouth Town Council first and second proposals.	
61	Oppose recommendations.	This will have a detrimental effect on Chickerell by reducing revenue raised through Council Tax precept Chickerell in and increase Council Tax to this houses moved under Weymouth and Portland Council. This is purely driven by financial motivation and would be detrimental to the residents of Chickerell.	Member Working Group note: This comment appears to oppose the earlier proposal by Weymouth TC to take in parts of Chickerell parish within its boundaries.
62	Oppose recommendations.	I support Cllr Louie O'Leary's plan as it promotes community cohesion in the whole of Weymouth, not just Littlemoor. Other plans are potentially divisive.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
63	Oppose recommendations.	Littlemoor should stay as it is and not expand it's boundaries. If anything, the planners should have stipulated that they put in the infrastructure, such as, another GP practice, etc, everything is bursting at the seams. Tis over the road n should be attached to Bincombe.	
64	Oppose recommendations.	<p>At present the way the Winterborne Farringdon council is set up works very well for my wife and myself, we know who represents us with easy contact if needed, I see no need to change a system that works.</p> <p>what is the purpose of moving Bincombe into the Weymouth town council incorporating it with other areas changing its name to make a new ward on the Weymouth council. I can see there will be problems moving a west dorset parish into a south dorset council especially with the ward councillor representing in Weymouth and a West Dorset MP in Parliament. Our family have lived in Bincombe since 1934 and have had no problem with councils, parishes or anything in that line. please leave it as it is. thank you</p>	
65	Oppose recommendations.	I live in Upwey & Broadwey ward and I am concerned that Weymouth and Dorset Council's plan under represented compared to the rest of Weymouth. I support Cllr Louie O'Leary's plan which would give us an extra councillor by adding on the area north of Littlemoor with us. This means both communities are properly represented.	
66	Oppose recommendations.	I have lived on Littlemoor my whole life. I do not support our community being merged with the area north as it isn't Littlemoor. They have a separate identity to us and have more in common with Bincombe and Upwey.	

	<b>Support/Oppose</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Additional comments</b>
67	Oppose recommendations.	I live on Littlemoor and it's a close community of people who socialise together. We do have a number of issues that we try and deal with as a community. Please leave our community alone and allow us to remain independent.	
<b>Winterborne Farringdon</b>			
1	Oppose recommendations.	No additional comments made.	
2	Oppose recommendations.	Leave them all as they are.	
3	Support recommendations.	<b>Winterborne Farringdon Group Parish Council</b> This council has developed an alternative proposal for the boundary between Weymouth and Bincombe. This is not substantially altered from the alternative proposal it submitted at the earlier Community Governance Review.	

## **Formal submission of objection by Councillor Louie O'Leary Dorset Councillor Littlemoor and Preston ward.**

I once again oppose these options. This is not about the principle of development to our north that cannot be stopped and we are also objecting to the inclusion of long built housing in the Nightingale drive. It is about borders, cohesion and community. There is no evidence of support for this area being moved into Littlemoor by Littlemoor residents.

- The official government guidance on community governance review states in paragraph 163 that "no parish ward should be split by such a boundary" this proposal cuts the Littlemoor ward across the Winterbourne and Broadmayne ward and the Littlemoor and Preston ward. If you move these borders you will render my unitary ward name mute as I would instead be the councillor for "some of Littlemoor and Preston". This will add confusion to the already confusion borders that are not congruent with DC boundaries.
- While guidance has been stated that certain circumstances may warrant exceptions, I still have not been informed why an exception has been made for Nottingham (which at the next election would have 1 Councillor elected by 177 and only increase to 498 in 5 years' time while Littlemoor would have 1873 per one 1 Councillor) but not the 500 houses north of Littlemoor and the existing area around Nightingale drive
- Littlemoor has had separate representation on the lower tier authority since 2004. Prior to that it was part of the North central ward. This ward was split into Wey Valley and Littlemoor because it was felt that both given their differences should have separate representation. Merging Littlemoor with a housing development in another area would go against this principle.
- In paragraph 161 it says "In urban areas community identity tends to focus on a locality, whether this be a housing estate, a shopping centre or community facilities. Each locality is likely to have its own sense of identity. Again, principal councils should consider each case on its merits having regard to information and evidence generated during the review." This can easily be said of the Littlemoor. It is built around the community centre and shopping precinct at its middle and kept separate from Preston by fields to its East, a large nature reserve to its south, either the A354 relief road or main railway line depending on where you class Littlemoor. To its north it is separated by Winterbourne Farringdon by the A353 Littlemoor road.
- Paragraph 162. States "In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area, and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Principal councils should seek views on such matters during the course of a review. They will, however, be mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages." Littlemoor residents through their own voice, the view of myself as one of their Dorset councillors, in their attendance at a public meeting where they unanimously agreed and through their community group and



community safety group have shown they feel they are a distinct community separate from the area to their north. This is due to historic boundaries, differences in representation both and past and present and demographic.

- Paragraph 159 It states that "In considering whether or not a parish should be divided into wards, the 2007 Act requires that consideration be given to whether:
  - a) the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
  - b) it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented"

As stated above Dorset councils proposal create the ward of Nottingham in order to keep within Dorset council boundaries and to ensure the area/community of a parish is separately represented. Why can this not be done for the area north of us within Winterbourne and Farringdon?

- The rest of the guidance continually brings up the issue of cohesion 31 times in 54 pages, it also brings up identity 14 times, yet there seems to be little attention paid to the potential breaking of community and neighbourhood cohesion in regards to Littlemoor due to the feeling that the rules, guidance and attention paid to responses are not being treated fairly compared to other areas. Nor does it address concerns raised that Littlemoor's identity could be threatened.
- The arguments for or against various aspects of these proposals seem to be based on finance and precept monies. This is despite the guidance stating otherwise. The arguments against the Littlemoor ward gaining this new development seem to be the only ones being made based on the guidance and spirit of the rules and guidance not on money.
- Littlemoor is semi-rural. It is largely housing with some community facilities and some shops. The area to the north will contain housing but also a hotel, car show room and large industrial units this will upset the balance and makeup of the area.
- While some groundwork has been done of this site the 500 homes have not yet been built. Cllr Flower did mention at a public meeting that petitions on specific areas could be brought forward at any time and the guidance does allow it surely it should make sense to keep the status quo and wait to see this development pan out and give the residents of that area a say on what area they live in? This approach is more in keeping with the spirit of the purpose of the community governance review.
- In the original submission of the community governance review Littlemoor's border remained unchanged. Why has this now been changed especially as it is changing the status quo and also breaking important guidelines.

- Littlemoor as it currently known sits in the ecclesiastical parish of Littlemoor serviced by St Francis church which for a modern congregation is a healthy number. The 500 houses sits in the ecclesiastical parish of Bincombe serviced by the village church at Holy Trinity which has a small congregation. Keeping these 500 houses linked to Bincombe may help bolster numbers here.
- Young people in Littlemoor tend to attend Bincombe Valley school in the middle of the old Littlemoor estate. Young people in the Nightingale drive area tend to go to St Nicholas primary school which is in Upwey and Broadway. The new estate being built does have land for a new school to complement the existing ones.
- Littlemoor residents tend to socialise and congregate at Littlemoor community centre and the Top Club. There are no pubs or cafes on the estate so these venues along with the church tend to be more used for these activities. While residents in the Nightingale drive area tend to socialise at the Standard pub in Upwey and Broadway or the Reynolds institute in Upwey and Broadway.
- When discussing issues relating to our community Littlemoor residents use one of the buildings on the estate to hold their residents meetings at either the community centre, the church or the Top Club. The residents in the Nightingale drive area have always tended to use the Reynolds Hall or the Memorial Hall in Upwey where their parish council also meets.
- The guidance around community governance talks a lot around cohesion and also brings up the fact reviews should not break up cohesive communities. The resentment against the development of 500 houses to our north and the impact that will have on our community and it's infrastructure is already fomenting. Forcibly merging the two areas against the settled area's will is likely to only increase this resentment.
- The new development will have its own community centre. Littlemoor already has one which is very popular and well run. Having two community centres in the same area will cause division unless they are clearly separated.

### **Alternative suggestion**

I have offered compromises previously and still have never had a response containing facts of why they are not suitable. I will be submitting an alternative as a separate submission.

- Merge this area with Upwey and Broadway so at least they will share an MP and a parish councillor as opposed to just a parish councillor as is currently proposed. They also share a number of community similarities and are more integrated in terms of community. The plan myself and Cllr Wakeling came up with protects Littlemoor's identity, achieves electoral equity and cuts the numbers of councillors. This plan has been submitted as an alternative proposal. Keep Chickerell's border as they are in option 2. Dorset has massive numerical

problems and splits communities. Weymouth's plan splits communities and leaves communities like Littlemoor and Weymouth underrepresented.

## Alternative proposal submitted by Councillor Louie O'Leary Dorset Councillor Littlemoor and Preston ward

I would like to make the below recommendation as part of the community governance review. This map is amendment to a proposal myself and Cllr Luke Wakeling of Weymouth council tried to come up with as a compromise. Sadly Weymouth council did not support the amendment. Therefore I would like to propose the below plan.

The numbers for all the wards are below. The variation in electors/seat is 1400-1900 (mean 1723) There are five wards with a variance over 130, and just two wards with a var over 200.

n	seats	Cllr per voter	var	1st proposed name	My proposal
3386	2	1693	-30	Littlemoor	Littlemoor
4395	3	1465	-258	Preston & Sutton Poyntz	Preston & Sutton Poyntz
2789	2	1394	-329	Broadway, Nottingham & Upwey	Upwey & Broadway
1588	1	1588	-135	Wey Valley	Redlands and Nottingham
3513	2	1756	32	Melcombe Regis	Melcombe Regis
3820	2	1910	186	Lodmoor	Lodmoor
3653	2	1826	102	Radipole & Southill	Radipole & Southill
3691	2	1845	121	Pye Hill	Rodwell or Southlands
3759	2	1879	155	Rodwell	Nothe
3531	2	1765	41	Westham East	Westham East
3801	3	1650	-73	Westham West	Westham West
3454	2	1727	3	Wyke Regis	Wyke Regis

Total Seats: 25

Average electors/seat: 1723

This alternative does key things:

- Cuts the number of Weymouth councillors

- Keep Weymouth council ward within the same Parliamentary boundary
- Only breaks Dorset council ward boundaries twice (both times in order to keep within Parliamentary boundaries and to achieve good electoral equality)
- Listens to the concerns of Littlemoor and Chickerell residents and delivers for them and there for doesn't split communities and achieves cohesion
- Gives communities such as Sutton Poyntz and Southill name recognition
- Has better electoral equality than option one as seen below and eliminates anomalies like Nottingham ward.

Dorset council ward options numbers. There are nine wards with a variance over 130 and six with a variance over 200.

n	seats	n/seat	var	name
3619	2	1809	60	Littlemoor
4515	2	2257	508	Preston
3848	2	1924	175	Upwey and Broadway
3513	2	1756	7	Melcombe Regis
176	1	176	-1572	Nottingham
3424	2	1712	-36	Lodmoor
4049	2	2024	275	Radipole
4249	2	2124	375	Rodwell
3231	2	1615	-133	Westham East
3670	2	1835	86	Westham West
2803	2	1401	-347	Wyke North
1005	1	1005	-743	Lanehouse
3852	2	1926	177	Wyke South

Total Seats: 24

Average electors/seat: 1748

As said below it does cross Dorset council boundaries twice.

1. It cuts the Winterbourne and Broadmayne ward and Upwey and Broadway ward by merging the Nightingale drive area and the development North of Littlemoor into the Upwey and Broadway town council ward. This area would still be split over two DC wards in the current DC proposal but would cut the same area by putting in the Littlemoor and Preston ward. This proposal though at least means that they share the same MP (As Upwey and Broadway is due to go into West Dorset), and town councillor as opposed to just a town councillor.
2. The second place is it cuts the Upwey and Broadway ward and Nottingham ward by merging the southern half of Upwey and Broadway with Nottingham (which is in the Chickerell DC ward) to create the current Wey Valley ward (bar the part in the Radipole ward as in the current Wey Valley ward) This achieves far better electoral equality than the current proposal and also ensures that they are all within West Dorset.

Community cohesion boundary's and names:

Weymouth unlike most towns in Dorset council but similar to Poole and Bournemouth is a collection of smaller communities, estates, villages, and suburbs. This means we must do what we can to keep those communities sovereign and separate but within Weymouth councils area.

Historically certain smaller communities in Weymouth have been overlooked and swallowed up. Southill with is a growing suburb has been part of Westham North since 1979 despite the fact it is a separate community and has more in common with the Radipole area. Sutton Poyntz is a village which is on the north side of Preston and has always been in both borough and county council and now town and unitary wards part of the same ward as Preston. This makes sense but it would be beneficial to ensure its name is included in the ward name.

The North side of Weymouth has easily definable communities. Littlemoor, Upwey and Broadway and Preston and Sutton Poyntz with Radipole on the edges. The communities make up under half of Weymouths population but will be where most of the large scale development will come from. It is crucial that

1. These communities have separate representation to protect their interests and ensure they have a voice on issues
2. These communities aren't at the mercy at the rest of the town by ensuring it has fair community based representation.
3. As these communities spill out into other administrative and electoral domains (parliamentary, unitary wards and currently other parish's) they need to keep within the same domain



## Personal submission by Weymouth Town Councillor

I support WTC's submission, in particular the first preference. The single option DC has put out to consultation, fails to address anomalous boundaries, and the very low number of electors/cllr of Nottingham and "Lanehouse" wards, weakens electoral equality across the whole town.

The WTC submission, when taken together with the notes for the three previous WTC submissions, I believe is a good summary of all the arguments why the WTC proposal fulfils all criteria in the guidance, and provides good boundaries, which make sense in the 2020s.

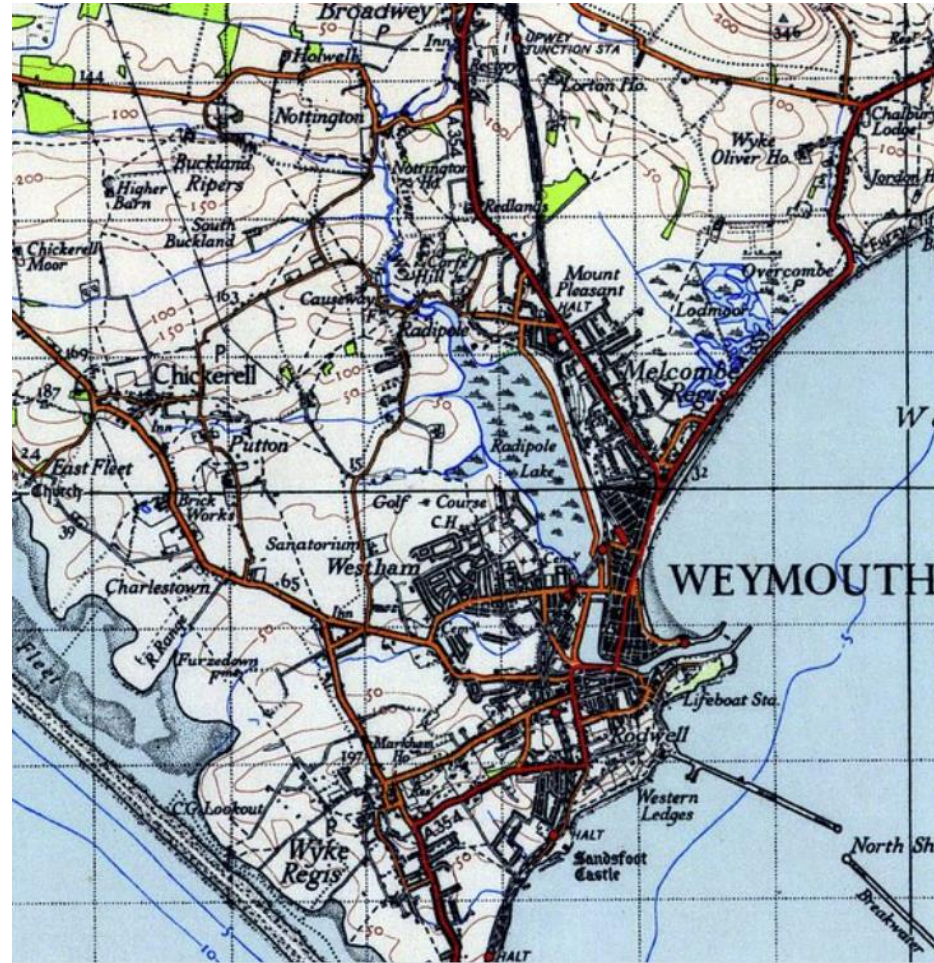


2021/01697 as approved SE of Littlemoor, yellow line is DC's option out for consultation

I do offer one nonmaterial tweak to the WTC proposals, I have been made aware of one more development for 66 homes, south-east of Littlemoor (P/FUL/2021/01697), which was not approved when we drew the previous maps. The attached maps are not materially different to the ones WTC submitted – not a single built house is changed, but I have ensured that 2021/01697 is not divided by a boundary, and I have also tidied up some of the snapping to the DC wards.



I have been disappointed by some of the quality of arguments, put forward by others. Whilst the WTC submission has made a point of sticking rigidly to the guidance, some other submissions do not appear to have even read them. I have confidence the working group will disregard these irrelevant points.



1920s map – boundary is visible as a dotted line, a clear break exists between Weymouth and Chickerell

The existing WTC/CTC boundary has been fixed since 1972, and the majority of it has been in place since before 1933. In 1933, there were farms and countryside separating the town of Weymouth and the village of Chickerell. In the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was an airfield,

now there are only few unpopulated areas. Quite evidently, the circumstances have changed enormously in the last 90 years – for example Chickerell has become a town since the last review, and we must therefore consider if the boundary is still fit for purpose, and how to address the anomalies which have occurred over the last 50 years. The closest part of the guidance, I can find on this matter, §125 states that:

It is desirable that any changes do not upset historic traditions but **do reflect changes that have happened over time, such as population shift or additional development**, which may have led to a different community identity.

Thus, I must conclude that “because it’s always been there” is the argument of last resort – only to be used if there are no better arguments, and is certainly trumped by changing circumstances, such as the many 20<sup>th</sup> century developments. It has been over 50 years since the last review of this boundary. Had there been regular reviews over that period, incrementally addressing these issues as the individual developments took place, the current review would not be having to address so many changes all at once, however that is the unenviable task in front of you.

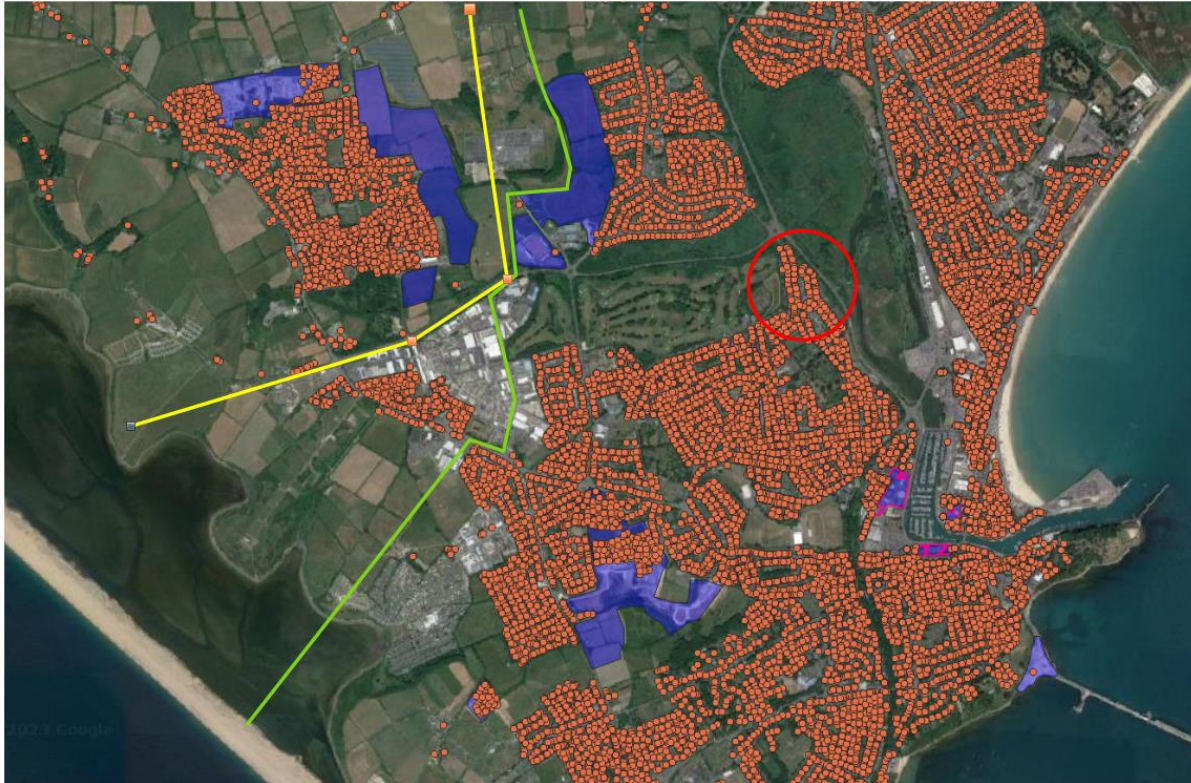
Some have commented that historical maps or boundary stones are reasons to retain an existing boundary. There are some ancient boundary stones within Weymouth (For example, a 19<sup>th</sup> century one is set into a wall at the traffic lights on Goldcroft Road) Historical political boundaries tell a social story, and they have always evolved as populations grow and move. I enjoy the story of historic boundaries, and understanding the social changes that have led to boundaries updating. However, the task at hand, is to create political boundaries fit for the second decade, of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which not only recognise the shape of Weymouth, and surrounding areas today, but help form strong communities going forward.

It is abundantly clear that boundaries in the United Kingdom are built from the bottom up. This is in the CGR guidance, the LGBCE guidance for local authority warding, and the Electoral Commission guidance for Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. It is an undertaking of this process to consider the consequences of the parish wards and boundaries on the upper boundaries. The existent boundaries have not been updated in 50 years, and the process of cascading changes up the layer-cake of boundaries, can take many years, if not decades. So, in reviewing the lowest level of boundaries, we should pragmatically take stock of both 20<sup>th</sup> century, and future developments. The development sites WTC has identified are either housing sites in the local plan, or have approved planning permission. Taking account of these in the parish wards/boundaries should be actioned as soon as possible, to reduce future anomalies at all levels. Due to the lethargic way the boundaries cascade upwards, at the parish level, this review should not be afraid of boldly encompassing new development, to eschew this responsibility will only cause further frustration in the future, at the higher levels.

I did assist Cllr O’Leary produce some alternative ideas, which warded the new development north of Littlemoor separately to the existing community– at his suggestion. This was considered by WTC councillors, however there were no good reasons put forward for it. To achieve a reduction in councillors to 24, it is necessary to ward smaller communities together, and the most appropriate way to do this is for the new development to be with Littlemoor, the alternative options appear tenuous at best, for little gain.

Weymouth has some fascinating social geography, as this map of residential addresses shows:

The orange dots are the OS AddressBase dataset, with commercial properties removed – this exposes the communities. You can clearly see there are many natural breaks between residential areas caused by lakes, harbours and nature reserves, these form part of the character of Weymouth. These natural breaks are a constraint when forming internal wa



ards for Weymouth.

One example in the WTC submission, is the desire to re-unite the Goldcroft Road estate (red circle), half of which is currently warded with Radipole, and half in Westham. Goldcroft is separated from Radipole by two lakes and a golf course – the current warding has very poor community cohesion, and this area would be better served warded in Westham. Further to the natural breaks, there are also man-made breaks. The new relief road, the new Ferry Bridge, and the Granby Industrial Estate form man-made boundaries between communities.



If there was no existing boundary, the most obvious “gap” between Weymouth and Chickereil, is now Chickereil Link Road B3157 (yellow line). However, that would transfer the whole of Charlestown to Weymouth too, and Charlestown is not currently connected to Weymouth. WTC has only sought to locate the most reasonable boundary (green), and only wishes to correct the anomalous boundaries which are dividing the existent communities of Westham, Lanehouse and Wyke Regis; which are already connected to and benefitting from being part of Weymouth. These two options are really the only two sensible places you can split the two towns, whilst maintaining community cohesion. Weymouth has suggested the least selfish of the two options.

The working group has set a precedent in Bridport, on the previous CGR. Since the 2019 reorganisation, the four resort town councils; Bridport, Lyme Regis, Swanage and Weymouth, have taken on a large number of additional services – which were formerly district services. The services such as beach cleansing, lifeguards, events and public toilets, support the visitor economy. That visitor economy is worth over £209.5M and 3441fte jobs to the Weymouth and Portland area (Visit Dorset figures for 2019). These additional services have made a large impact on the precept level of these four parish councils. In the working group’s final report/recommendation for the 2022 CGR (page 11-12), Dorset Council was persuaded by the arguments for Bridport TC’s request to merge with Allington, Bothenhampton and Walditch, and Bradpole parishes for reasons including:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- There is little separation between parishes, creating a sense of a single larger parish.
- A large number of services provided by the Town Council are enjoyed by residents of the wider area including the use of the community bus service, provision of community spaces and buildings etc.
- The Town Council manage a number of facilities/services that are outside of the town boundary.
- The proposed warding arrangements will enable local centres to retain an identity of their own as is currently the case with West Bay which sits largely within the current Bridport parish.

This is a similar set of circumstances to the current WTC – CTC boundary, but WTC is not requesting a takeover, just some minor re-alignments that re-establish a clear, obvious boundary between two neighbouring towns, in accordance with the guidance. The precedent has been set in Bridport.

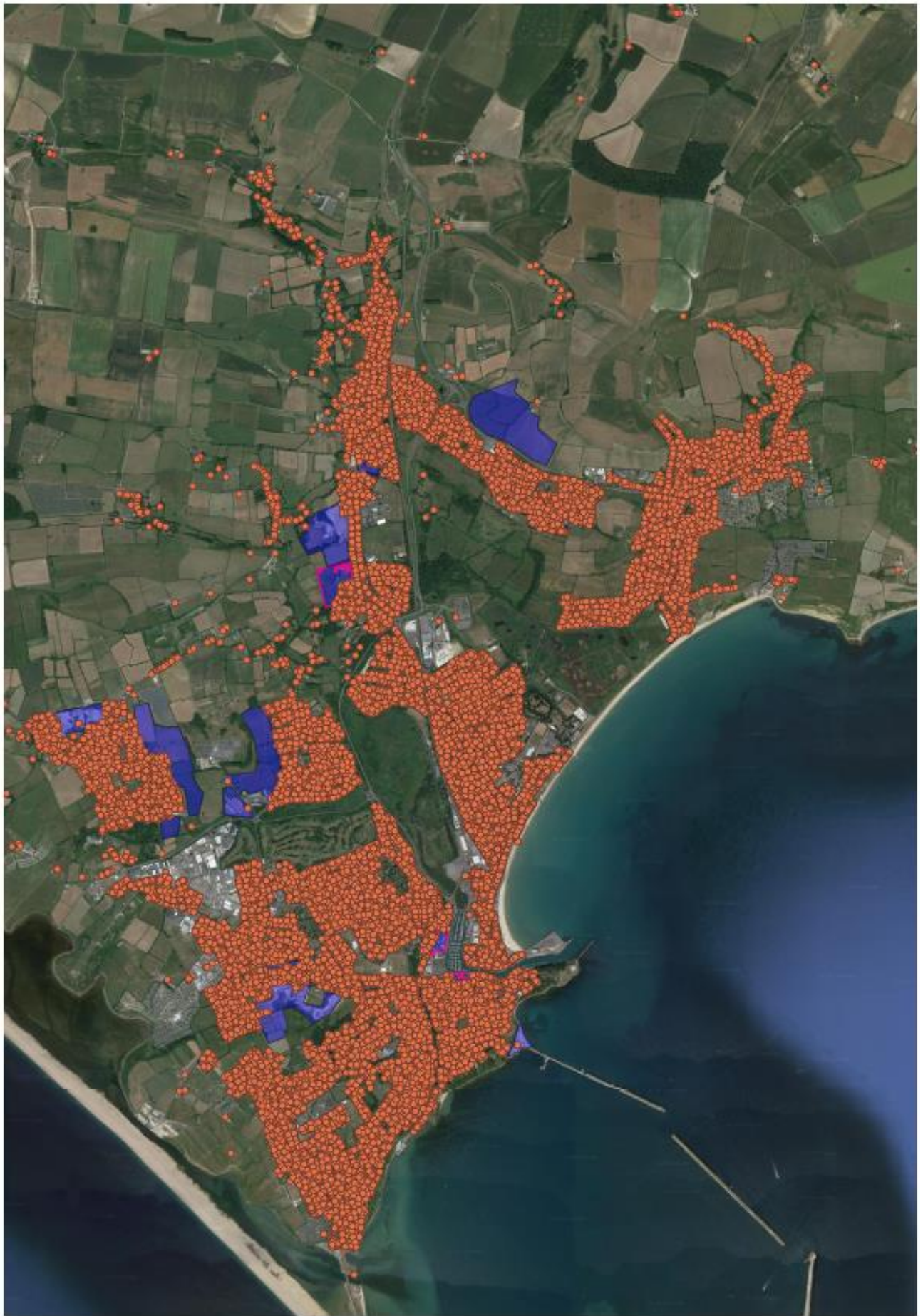
The WTC submission uses local knowledge to propose sensible boundaries, fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century which are compliant with the guidance. I urge the working group to trust WTC’s collective local knowledge, the WTC suggested warding is fair, respects the many sub-communities of Weymouth, and fully complies with the guidance. Although there are accusations of a “land grab” this isn’t the case. The properties that are north of Littlemoor Road, and west of Lanehouse Road, are already benefitting from the services WTC provides, particularly the nearly £1.5M annual spend to support the resort of Weymouth, and the economic benefits that brings to the whole area. The WTC suggestion does mean a small number of properties who are currently benefitting, but not contributing, would start to make a

contribution to WTC precept. Many more houses are currently being built around Chickerell, which will mean that Chickerell continues to grow as a town, and forms a cohesive community, distinct from Weymouth.





# Residential Addresses



# Weymouth TC Second Preference





## Portland Town Council - Community Governance Review

### Recommendation

The Committee discussed this matter again at its February 2023 meeting and agreed to resubmit the following as the response to Dorset Council.

**a) To support the retention of the current boundaries**

**b) In addition to support a submission which raises the opportunities around a local review of the Northern Boundary areas in the light of emerging issues.**

### Background

This matter was originally discussed at the Committee's May 2022 Meeting (item 10b on this agenda 220427\_Planning\_Highways\_Agenda\_3\_Merged.pdf (portlandtowncouncil.gov.uk)

and a response was agreed, however due to staff absence this response was submitted by the Portland Community Partnership (PCP) on behalf of the Town Council. (The PCP supports the Town Council in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan). It would appear that this submission was not formally recognised by Dorset Council and as such following the more focused Weymouth review this request was again raised by Weymouth Town Council.

### Rationale

The Portland Neighbourhood Plan is now part of the Development Plan and contains a number of policies which if recognised within the Northern shoreline of the Fleet and Portland Harbour would assist with progressing development to take advantage of the emerging frameworks in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In addition the Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed and could accommodate this area extension.

### Specifics

The most specific aspect is that of renewable energy. The 2021 update of the NPPF included policy wording which encouraged Planning groups to seek out opportunities to support renewable energy :

*Para 156. Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.*

As set out in the Feb 2023 Agenda Annex I the Portland Neighbourhood Plan has a specific enabling policy concerning renewables and the associated policy text specifically mentions the Ferrybridge Area and the Harbour Breakwaters Para 7.28 Link to Portland Neighbourhood Plan

If the request by Weymouth Town Council is approved it could compromise this early opportunity by splitting the administrative area of the Fleet entrance between the two Town Councils.

Additionally the potential of the Harbour Breakwaters has been discussed with the Port Authorities and approval given to progress matters subject to the their final agreement. The proposed extension of the Policy Area is seen as an integral part of this initiative.

**Other areas**

There are a number of other areas which would also support this approach and can be expanded upon if required by Council.

## Submission by Weymouth Town Council

### Weymouth Town Council - Community Governance Review

#### Response to public consultation March 2023

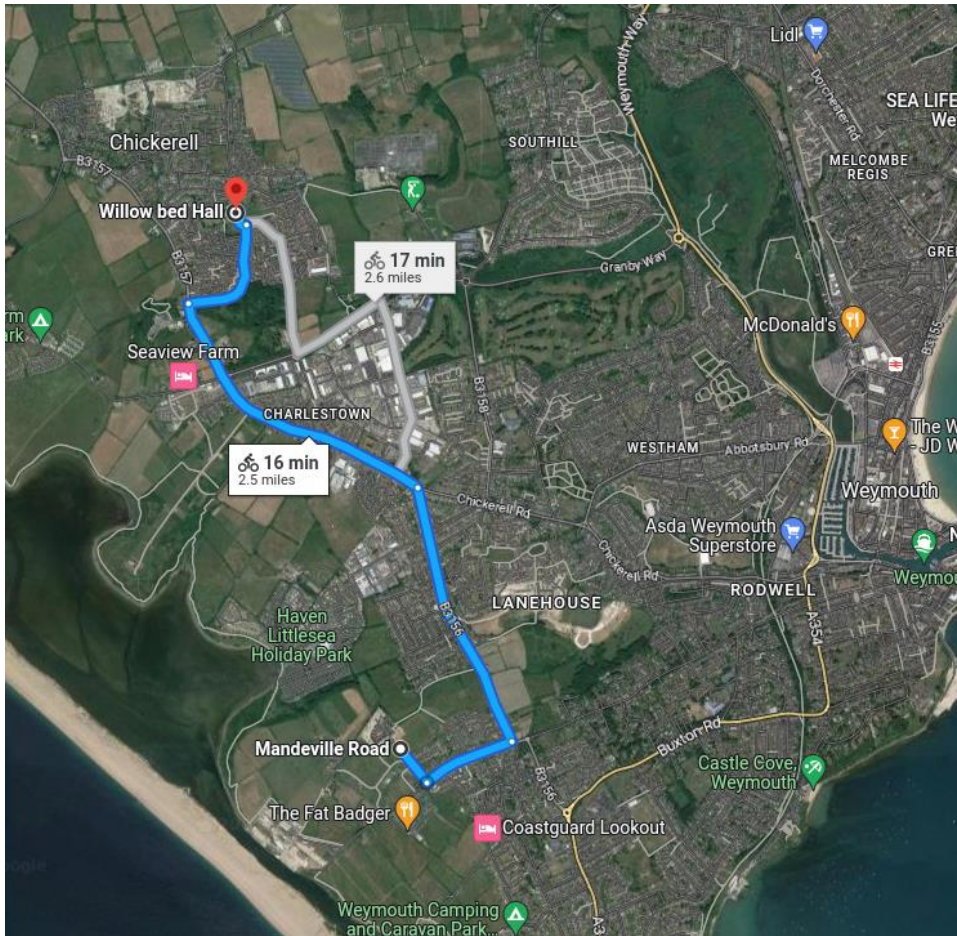
Weymouth Town Council (WTC) has carefully considered the draft proposals published by Dorset Council. There is now a single option presented to the public. WTC is pleased that we have been listened to regarding the northern extension of the boundary, to include the new development at Littlemoor, and the bridge at Ferry Bridge that moved in 1985. However, the option presented fails to fix historically anomalous boundaries on our western boundary contrary to guidance §16,26,84, nor does it address anomalies which will occur in the next few years. The proposed warding for Weymouth is a real concern, as there are two wards which are significantly undersized, which unbalances electoral integrity across the whole of Weymouth, contrary to guidance §166-167

WTC refers readers to background information presented in our three previous submissions:

- Items 41-45 <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/community-governance-review-initial-submissions/representations-received>
- Items 13-15 <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/community-governance-review-submissions/representations-received-on-draft-recommendations>
- And pages 40-48: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/35024/3292567/FINAL+Initial+consultation+responses+-+Weymouth+and+neighbouring+parishes+and+Vale+of+Allen+CGR+%281%29.pdf/68cd01ae-9e5d-5b4c-a630-7a6fadd45275?t=1675430738880>

#### WTC Reasoning for Suggestions

WTC firmly believes that Camp Road and Mandeville Road are part of the community of Wyke Regis in Weymouth. Mandeville Road is 2.5 miles from Willowbed Hall, and over a mile by road to the existing Weymouth Boundary. ASDA in Weymouth would be its nearest Supermarket, but for services such as schools, doctors, libraries, mini-Tesco and community centres, Wyke Regis is the local community. As of 2021, there were only 3 properties “in west Dorset” on Mandeville Road, but more are under construction, and this boundary should be addressed pursuant to guidance §15.

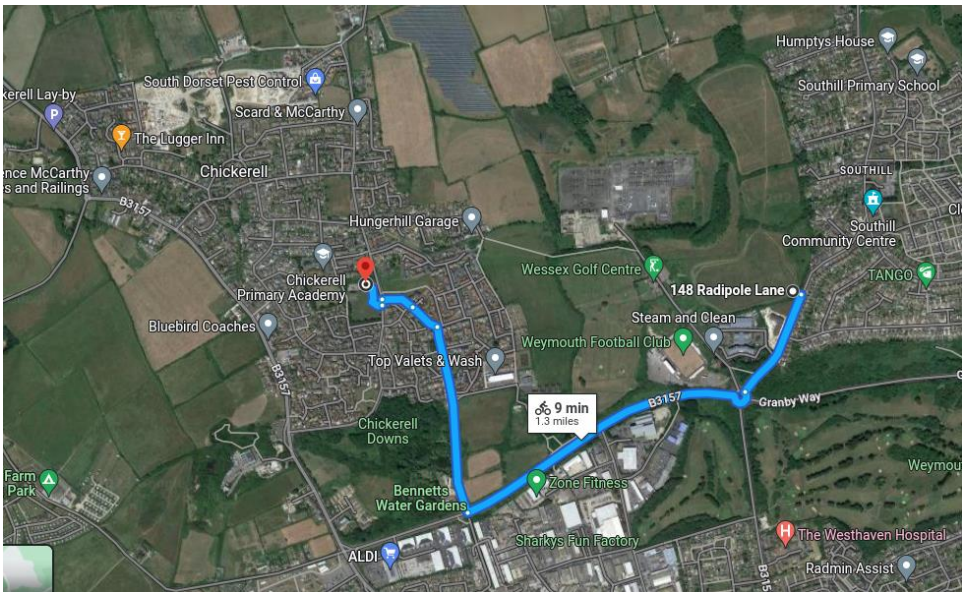
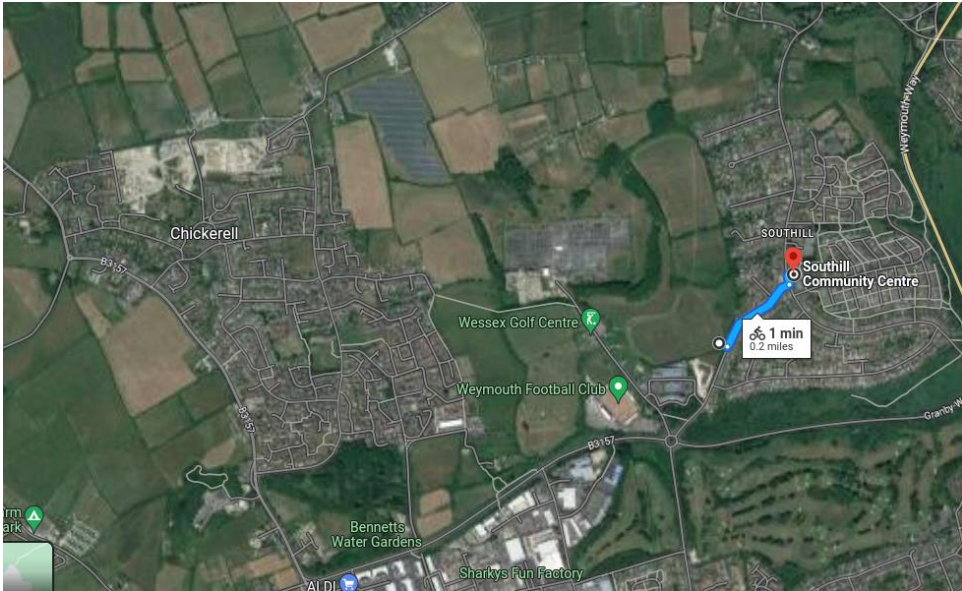


The proposed Southill Expansion will be accessed via Radipole Lane, and part of the Southill Community. Between this development and Chickereil Town is; a 45MW gas-fired power station and 400kV substation, an existing solar farm, a proposed solar farm and battery storage, a golf facility, Weymouth Football Club, and the main police station. Pursuant to the guidance §58, we believe the new development forms a neighbourhood with the existing Southill community.



In distances, the new development will be 0.2mi from the access to the new development to Southill Centre, but over a mile further to Willowbed Hall.





The football club at Radipole Lane is "Weymouth Football Club" having played at the old Recreation Ground until 1987, before the construction of ASDA. This is obviously part of the community of Weymouth. It is also worth noting that Chickerell has its own football team, Chickerell United, who play at The Stalls in the centre of Chickerell.



The old Recreation Ground, Sydney Hall in the foreground, Marsh Road Garages at back, date unknown.

For the reasons given above, WTC firmly believes the two future development areas, at Southill and Mandeville Road are part of the town of Weymouth and should be included within the Weymouth parish boundary.

WTC has listened to some comments regarding warding, from members of the Littlemoor community. WTC acknowledges that there is local opposition the development of the fields opposite, however that is a made planning decision. The CGR cannot over-turn a planning matter, even if people wish it could. We have looked at options and considered if it is possible to grant Littlemoor its own ward, and what the consequences of doing so would be for the wider town. The view of WTC is that the new development north of Littlemoor is approved, and the developer is making progress to commence building, the new residents will be best served democratically, warded with Littlemoor.

WTC has also considered the submissions by Chickerell Town Council (CTC). We have met with CTC on two occasions to discuss compromises and WTC has offered further meetings. CTC has not brought any options to the table, nor been able to consider how the circumstances have changed since the 1972 boundaries (pursuant to guidance §15,26,84), nor been willing to constructively address the obvious issues of anomalous boundaries. CTC's written submission is more of a historical reflection, many of the points made lack

relevance to the guidance for this process in the 21st century. It's regrettable that CTC have been uncompromising, have not wished to meet with WTC further, and have supported a proposal that does not address historical anomalies and fails to re-establish a clear boundary between the two towns – pursuant to §83 of the guidance.

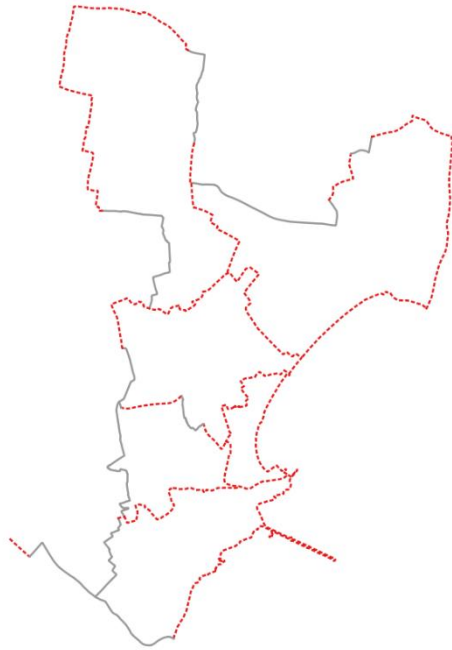
WTC remains concerned that these parish proposals are being aligned to upper boundaries. The guidance (and additionally the guidance for the review of Local Authority wards confirms) is clear that parish boundaries should be aligned to communities and will be used as building-blocks to improve the upper boundaries at the next review – pursuant to the guidance §17,29,85. WTC notes the Weymouth unitary wards were set in 2018, which were based almost entirely on the 1972 district boundaries. Continuing to set boundaries based on the past, is perpetuating the issues. WTC expects an opportunity to set sensible, community-based parish wards and boundaries, before the next review of the unitary wards – so that these historical anomalies can finally be resolved. WTC remains committed to making a proposal that fully complies with the guidance and will not make a proposal that might leave Dorset Council open to risk of legal review.

Weymouth Town Council presents two fresh preferences.

### **First Preference**

WTC's first preference is based on our previous suggestion. This preference is for 24 councillors in 12 wards, an average of 1795 electors/councillor (predicted 2030 numbers). Please see attached map. This addresses anomalous boundaries to the west, provides good electoral equality, aligns to communities, and is based on unitary wards at Cllr Flower's request. In the below graphic, the unitary wards are shown, the red lines are parts we have retained for parish warding. The grey lines are the only areas where we have suggested small tweaks to improve community cohesion, pursuant to §83 of the guidance. The only "internal" boundary alteration is Goldcroft Road, which is clearly in Westham, and separate from and not connected to Southill/Radipole ward.





Ward name	Number of seats	Electors / seat 2030
All Saints Wyke Regis	2	1778
Broadway, Nottingham & Upwey	2	2012
Lanehouse	1	1803
Littlemoor	2	1869
Lodmoor	2	1760
Melcombe Regis	2	1755
Preston and Sutton Poyntz	3	1465
Radipole and Southhill	2	1817
Rodwell	2	1793
Westham East	2	1881

Westham West	2	1894
Wyke South	2	1880



## **Second Preference**

WTC's second preference is a compromise. This preference is for 24 councillors in 11 wards, an average of 1752 electors/councillor (predicted 2030 numbers). Please see attached map. This partially addresses anomalous boundaries on the west, provides improved electoral equality, and is based on unitary wards at Cllr Flower's request.

To try to improve the anomalous boundaries, we would be prepared to exchange 40 properties in Cobham Drive for 40 in Littlesea Estate. We make this suggestion without prejudice; WTC firmly believes that all evidence supports that both these areas are accepted parts of Weymouth Town. WTC is prepared to make this concession, as the proposal out for public consultation completely ignores this anomalous boundary, and the residents of both towns deserve better than to have boundaries that cut through semi-detached buildings. We have been unable to meet with CTC to discuss this proposal as our requests for meetings have not been accepted.

In the below graphics, the red line is the existing boundary, and the yellow area is the WTC proposal.





Ward name	Number of seats	Electors / seat 2030
All Saints Wyke Regis	2	1782
Broadway, Nottingham & Upwey	2	2012
Littlemoor	2	1869
Lodmoor	2	1761

Melcombe Regis	2	1755
Preston and Sutton Poyntz	3	1465
Radipole and Southill	2	1816
Rodwell	2	1793
Westham East	2	1572
Westham West	3	1729
Wyke South	2	1880



## Winterborne Farringdon Group of Parish Councils submission to Community Governance Review

The position of Winterborne Farringdon Group of Parish Councils [WFGPC] remains as submitted to the previous 2020/21 Review. Further discussions with Weymouth Town Council [WTC] confirm that we are likeminded **aside from the emphasis** that we, WFGPC, place on remaining in step with Dorset Council [DC] ward boundaries where they involve existing populated areas.

So, **WFGPC agree** with WTC (and the DC proposal) that the southern boundary of Bincombe should be shifted north to encompass the whole of the proposed 'North of Littlemoor' development area [marked D1 and D2 on the accompanying map] **but WFGPC oppose** the transfer of the existing populated area [C on the map comprising some 190 dwellings] to WTC until such time as the DC ward boundaries can be realigned in concert. WFGPC believe that, while LGBCE might be relaxed about an adjustment to ward boundaries where there is currently no population, LGBCE would be reluctant to allow changes involving current populations that would undermine the carefully constructed electoral equality of DC wards so soon after establishment.

A side issue for WFGPC is that its remaining population were area C to be removed to WTC, would be too low to sustain the overheads (clerk, venue etc.) even of quarterly meetings. So, de-grouping WFGPC and just holding 5 annual Parish Meetings might still be necessary.

While a hybrid solution, having area C in WTC for parish/town level governance but in Winterborne & Broadmayne ward for DC governance, is technically possible [Nottingham is a current example], it does nothing for clarity of local governance and should be avoided if possible.

### ANNEX – Detailed comments (repeated for the record)

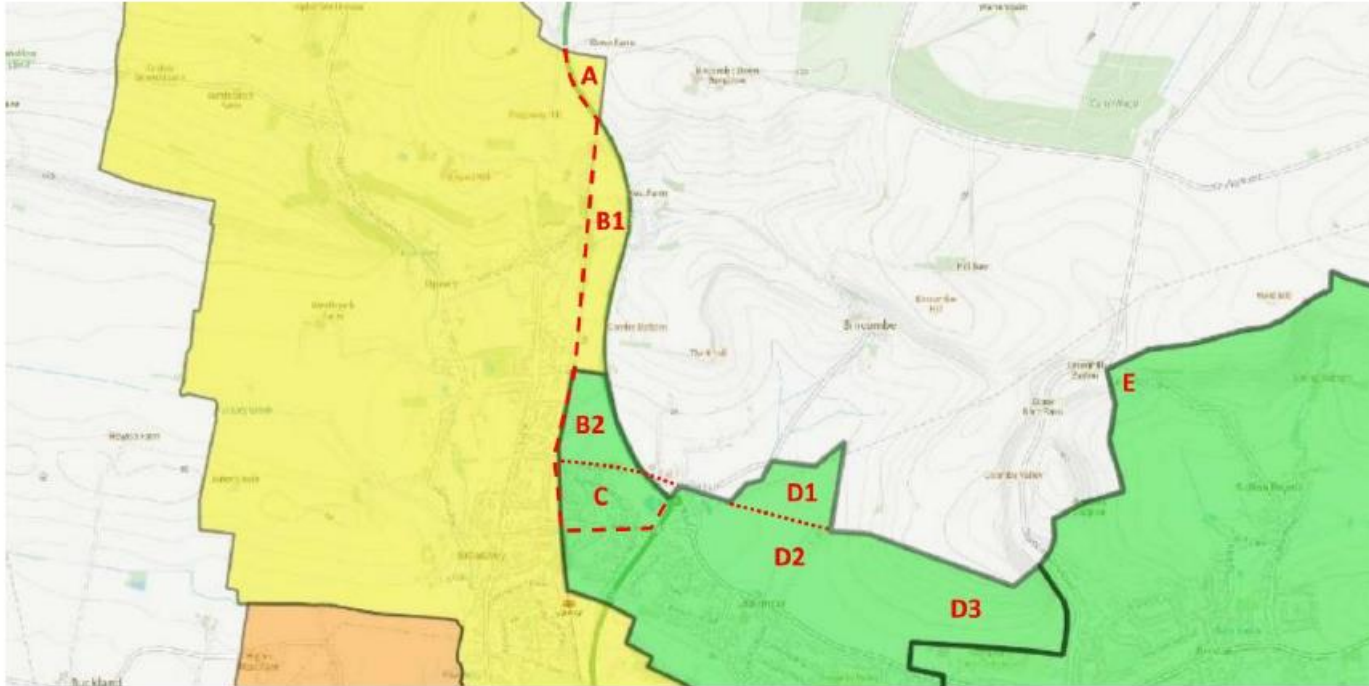
#### 1. Boundaries common to WFGPC and WTC

Where WFGPC share a common boundary with WTC, we are in agreement with the exception of the disposal of area C explained above and knock on effects on B1 and B2.

- A. The E boundary of the small area denoted A on the accompanying map follows the line of the railway in a tunnel so is invisible on the ground. **WFGPC and WTC are agreed** that the boundary should be moved W to the line of the new A354.
- B. WTC suggest that the 2 largely unpopulated areas marked B1 and B2 on the accompanying map be taken into WTC (Upwey & Broadway and Littlemoor & Preston wards respectively) arguing that the new A354 is a more visible boundary. **WFGPC dissent** both because:



- i. the railway, emerging at that point onto a high embankment, is a far more prominent boundary than the A354 where considerable efforts were made during construction to blend it into the scenically important rural approach from the Ridgeway to Weymouth, and;
  - ii. inclusion of B1 and B2 into WTC would preclude the area marked C remaining within in Bincombe parish, so decisions B and C are linked.
- C. WFGPC, while recognising the long term logic, differ from WTC over the timing as explained in the main text above.
- D. **WFGPC and WTC are agreed** that proper community governance at the town/parish level for the new developments marked D1 and D2 on the accompanying map can best be provided by WTC. Within that position there are nuances:
  - i. D1 is currently proposed for educational use and thus raising no community governance issues so WFGPC would be relaxed if it had to remain Bincombe;
  - ii. WFGPC is most concerned about D2 where all the housing is to be located. **D2 remaining in WFGPC would so unbalance the demographics of WFGPC that it would no longer be a viable as a Group.**
  - iii. D3, the south slope of 'the Tout', is not currently proposed for housing and WFGPC would hope that it remains part of the AONB; but geography links it with Preston so WFGPC has no objection the proposed move of D3 to WTC.
- E. WFGPC has no objections to the unexplained boundary anomaly at the NW end of Plaisters Lane (only introduced in 1933) being rectified.



## 2. Boundaries with other parish/town councils

WFGPC's boundaries with Martinstown PC and Knightsford GPC, are generally satisfactory but the Review has highlighted two geographic anomalies; neither raises significant Community Governance issues but WFGPC would be happy to see the anomalies rectified. As a minimum WFGPC would like to see the SW boundary of Loscombe shifted east to the A352 (the line of the old road which forms the parish boundary was moved in 1769) to allow WFGPC better to represent parishioners whose house entrance onto a busy road otherwise lies in a different parish.

